

SENATOR JANSSEN: On the, one of the sheets that were passed out here I see the science courses for the nurse practitioners, we have five credit hours or seventy-five clock hours in pharmacology. Could you tell me what a physician, how many hours of pharmacology they have to have? Would you know that?

SENATOR WESELY: I could find out, but I don't know.

SENATOR JANSSEN: I'd appreciate it if you could. That...or does anyone else in the body know this? If not, thank you, I'll talk to you on the floor. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Wesely, your light is next.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members, I apologize, I thought I'd go back and find an answer for Senator Janssen and I'm pleased to know that even the experts disagree on the answer to that question so I don't feel so bad that I don't know the answer. We'll try to get an accurate response to that. Let me, let me quickly go over some of the handouts and acknowledge. I...this is not an easy issue. I'm taking the position of the nurses and feeling that they are going to have the training and the background and that disaster will not result by giving this flexibility. But I can understand why Senator Robinson and Senator Crosby and others are very concerned about the quality of care and the...and clearly the physician is going to have more years of training and experience and background. They are going to have that and obviously they're going to have a broader perspective than the nurses will have. But the question is, the question isn't whether or not the physician has more training or more capabilities than a nurse, I will grant you that point. The question is, for what we're talking about providing in terms of services, are these advanced practice nurses adequately trained and will they do a good job. And Senator Landis talked about the question of quality. Will it be a high quality job? Not just low quality. Somebody was trying to say this will be low quality care. Will these nurses have the training background to provide the care, will it be of high quality for what we're talking about them doing. And the answer is yes. They will have the background. They will have, as indicated here, an extensive background. Not only will they have a bachelor's degree, they will have master's and even doctorate degrees. They'll have 2,000 hours of clinical training. These